

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-28 are pending in this application. Of these, claims 1, 10, 18, and 26 are independent. Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 18, 19 and 26 have been amended and claims 3, 12 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-19 and 21-28 would be pending. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter. Thus, entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 5-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by European Publication No. 0862313 to Takahashi et al. ("Takahashi"). Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

The above amendments to independent claims 1, 10, 18, and 26 replace the previously recited power saving mode to a sleep state, and further recite that the image reading apparatus is in the sleep state until the communication with the external apparatus restarts. The sleep state

was disclosed in the cancelled claims 3, 12 and 20, and also described in page 16, lines 9-26, and page 20, lines 15-18, for instance. Further, page 17, lines 19-21 teaches that the sleep state is maintained until the communication with the external apparatus restarts.

In amended claims 1, 10, 18 and 26, an image reading apparatus operates under control of an external apparatus, and reads an image and transfer an image signal of the read image via an interface when the image reading apparatus is connected to an external apparatus. If any abnormality of the interface is detected, the image reading apparatus goes to a sleep state until the communication with the external apparatus restarts. This is because it is useless to supply full power to the image reading apparatus where the image reading apparatus does not operate by itself.

In contrast, Takahashi (EP 0862313) does not teach or suggest the above features. First, Takahashi fails to disclose an image sensing device operates under control of the printer. Second, when the image sensing device of Takahashi, (e.g., a digital camera (column 3, line 53)) is disconnected from the printer, the image sensing device reverts its power supply to the battery 109, drops the driving frequency of the CPU, and reduces the brightness of the display 105 to attain power savings (column 19, lines 15-18). However, under such state, the image sensing device is not in a sleep state, and is still operable. It should be appreciated that an image sensing device, such as a digital camera, does not go to a sleep state while it is disconnected from the printer. This is because an image sensing device which can not operate without connecting to the printer is awfully inconvenient.

The Examiner indicates that feature of claim 3 of the present invention (power saving mode is a sleep state) is disclosed in column 7, lines 4-11. This part merely describes that the

transceiver circuits of the individual device are set in a sleep state, and there is no teaching that the individual device itself is set in a sleep state. Furthermore, the transceiver circuits go into a sleep state when there is no data to be transferred, and not when any abnormality of the interface is detected as described in claim 1 of the present invention. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that the difference between the sleep state in Takahashi and that of the present invention is apparent.

Accordingly, both the operation and effects of the image reading apparatus of the present invention are different from those of Takahashi. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the claimed invention is patentable over Takahashi.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Takahashi as applied to claims 1, 10 and 18, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,805 to Ishiguro et al. ("Ishiguro"). In light of the above arguments, Applicant respectfully asserts that Ishiguro fails to overcome the aforementioned deficiencies of Takahashi. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

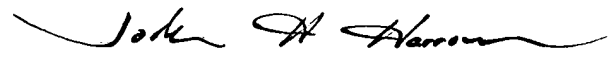
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By:



John A. Harroun
Registration No. 46,339
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101